

VZCZCXRO9318  
RR RUEHGI RUEHMA RUEHROV  
DE RUEHKH #1796/01 3221703  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 181703Z NOV 07  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9208  
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE  
RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KHARTOUM 001796

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KSQA](#) [OTRA](#) [EAID](#) [CDC](#) [UN](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BASHIR ESCALATES WAR OF WORDS WITH SPLM

¶1. (U) President Al Bashir delivered his most bellicose speech in recent memory yesterday, warning the South that the North is ready for war, and branding western countries as greedy tyrants. He insisted the north would not compromise over oil-rich Abyei. The President was speaking at an annual convention of veterans of the Popular Defense Forces (PDF), the religious-based irregular forces that the Government deployed against the South in the country's civil war.

-----  
Bashir threatens South with war  
-----

¶2. (U) In his remarks at Wad Madani in Al-Jazeera state to mark the 18th anniversary of the PDF, Bashir said that while he was not declaring war, he was calling on all "mujahideen" in Sudan to prepare for war. "This is not for the sake of declaring war, but it is clear that we must be ready to respond to Allah's calls," he said. He reaffirmed the readiness of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to wage war if it erupts in Northern Sudan (a reference to the Abyei area). He called for training camps for mujahideen to reopen.

¶3. (U) Bashir continued, praising all the forces of the North that, he said, had achieved victory over the South in the civil war. "There was the PDF, The Mujahideen, Aldababeen (anti-tank brigades), and the people's police, all these supported the SAF and we succeeded in defeating the conspiracies and thwarting the attack against us which neighboring countries had backed and which reached the stage of striking us with American rockets, but our response was stronger than their rockets and their arms. It was our victories in Nuba Mountains, in the Blue Nile, and our sound victory, which shook all the tyrants." He added that those who think Sudan has been weakened by the conflict in Darfur have miscalculated.

¶4. (U) Pan-Arab "Al-Jazeera" satellite television gave prominent coverage to the most alarming parts of the speech throughout November 18. In an interview with a local expert in Khartoum, the professor told an incredulous Al-Jazeera anchor that Al-Bashir's rhetoric about holy war was "the greater jihad" (the internal fight of every Muslim to overcome sin and selfishness in their lives) rather than "the lesser jihad" (actual holy war) and just part of the political game and maneuvering between the two partners.

-----  
U.S. included in Bashir's warning  
-----

¶5. (U) Referring to recent talk among some elements of the SPLM (including published interviews by firebrand SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum) of its own readiness for war the President replied "I say to those who want to provoke war, we want to see you in the battlefield, not in the hotels of European capitals, because whoever ignites war will have to face its consequences." He added: "We are ready, and we are not afraid of America or any other (power), any tyrant is underneath my boot." Apparently indicating the U.S., he gestured towards his shoes and reiterated, "all the tyrants are

here, underneath this very boot of mine."

-----  
No retreat on Abyei  
-----

¶6. (U) Bashir indicated that the NCP was in no mood to compromise on the issue of the Abyei area. He vowed the Government would not recognize the Experts' Report on Abyei, and said: "The experts should soak their report in water and drink it," an Arabic expression meaning essentially that they can "take their report and shove it."

-----  
Western interest in Sudan motivated by greed  
-----

¶7. (U) Referring to the recent incident of possible trafficking in children in Chad, Bashir blasted western countries for practicing modern slavery. He said foreigners meddling in Sudan's affairs, especially in the South and in Darfur, are doing so for their own selfish reasons. "They are liars and hypocrites who are motivated by their greed for our resources," he said, "and that is why they are stealing our children and youth and selling them in the slave markets in Europe."

¶8. (SBU) Comment: Although he stated several times that he wants peace, Bashir's remarks are a significant escalation in the war of words between the NCP and the SPLM. His use of religious rhetoric and calls for mujahadeen and PDF recruitment seem intended to ratchet up the pressure on the SPLM by showing that he is willing to tap into the most violent base of fighters during the North-South war, responsible for numerous atrocities. Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Haroun, indicted by the ICC as a war criminal in

KHARTOUM 00001796 002 OF 002

Darfur, gained his nickname "the butcher of the Nuba" for having mobilized some of these forces in the South. Bashir's rhetoric against the U.S. appears to be tied to anger and jealousy over GOSS President and GNU First Vice President Kiir's visit to the U.S. and his meeting last week with President Bush.

FERNANDEZ